

Freightliner and SWOSU Share Partnership

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SWOSU student Mark Underwood (second from left) is working this summer in a student internship position at Freightliner Special Vehicles, Inc., in Clinton. The internship is made possible by a partnership between SWOSU and Freightliner. Meeting recently were (from left): Anita Blankenship, director of sponsored programs at SWOSU; Ryan Kelley, Freightliner; Madeline Baugher, interim chair of the SWOSU Department of Computer Science and Information Systems; and SWOSU Provost Dr. Blake Sonobe.

Student internship positions are being made possible this summer for Southwestern Oklahoma State University students by a partnership between the SWOSU Department of Computer Science and Information Systems and Freightliner Specialty Vehicles Inc., in Clinton.

Selected SWOSU student interns with an adequate background in computer science are providing technical support under the supervision of Freightliner's management in designing, testing and implementing software programs for enhancing the operational efficiency at Freightliner's production and assembly at the Clinton facility.

Madeline Baugher, interim chair of the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems in the School of Business and Technology, is the internship director for SWOSU and Ryan Kelley is the information technology manager for Freightliner.

"Internship programs, such as the one with Freightliner, provide students with valuable, practical work experience to supplement their formal, academic preparation," Baugher said. "Good performance by interns will enhance their employability after graduation."

Baugher said there is a possibility that additional opportunities will be available in the near future with this program. Plus, SWOSU plans to pursue additional internship partnerships with other Oklahoma-based industry. Students who are interested should contact Baugher at 580.774.3122 or stop by her office in Room 251 in the Stafford Center.

At Freightliner, the internship program encourages undergraduate students to prepare for careers in scientific and technical fields as well as ancillary areas that support Oklahoma high-tech companies. Student interns work on tasks identified by Freightliner, receive hands-on experience through the internship arrangement and are compensated for their work. Student interns have the opportunity to work on a real project in industry, learn new industrial processes and technology, and improve their analytical skills and knowledge in quality assurance.